

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 NEA-14

OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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O 101212Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5569

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ANKARA 6411

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, TU

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: FORD BECOMES PRESIDENT

1. MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY AND BROAD COVERAGE TO THE ACCESSION OF PRESIDENT FORD, ALTHOUGH EVENTS RELATING TO CYPRUS DOMINATED BANNER HEADLINES IN MANY PAPERS.

MAIN STORIES, BASED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, WERE ACCOMPANIED BY EXTENSIVE SIDEBARS ON FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S DEPARTURE, THE HISTORY OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, PROFILES OF MR. FORD AND HIS FAMILY AND WORLD AND LOCAL REACTION.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING LIBERAL, INDEPENDENT MILLIYET AND LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET, PROMINENTLY PLAYED REPORTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL CONTINUE IN OFFICE. SEVERAL PAPERS AS WELL AS TURKISH RADIO (TRT) REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TO TURKISH STATE AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

4. ALSO WIDELY REPORTED WAS A STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

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ECEVIT, WHO, ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET, TOLD REPORTERS:

..."WITH DEMOCRACY'S SLOW BUT NON-DESTRUCTIVE PROCESSES, AMERICA HAS RESOLVED ANOTHER INTERNAL PROBLEM. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WITH MR. NIXON'S RESIGNATION. AS WE ALL KNOW, THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN A CLEAR RAPPROACHMENT IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON MR. FORD, WHO REPLACED NIXON. BUT I CAN SAY THIS: THERE IS NOTHING TO CAUSE CONCERN IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IS IN FAVOR OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH TURKEY."

5. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, SEVERAL WRITERS REVIEWED MR. NIXON'S RECORD IN OFFICE, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN POLICY. PREDICTABLY, PAPERS ON THE RIGHT AND AT THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM LARGELY APPROVED IT. THOSE ON THE FAR LEFT, SUCH AS YENI ORTAM, WERE CRITICAL.

6. MANY EDITORIALISTS APPLAUDED MR. NIXON'S RESIGNATION OR PRAISED AMERICAN DEMOCRACY FOR ITS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH A HIGH CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. THUS ABDI IPEKCI, WRITING IN MILLIYET, DECLARED THE RESIGNATION: "PREVENTED FURTHER TRAMPLING ON THE PRESTIGE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY AND ENDED THE NIGHTMARE WHICH HAD FALLEN UPON THE AMERICAN NATION...

"THE BENEFICIAL LESSON THAT THE NIXON EVENT HAS GIVEN IS THIS: NO STATESMAN SHOULD NURTURE THE ILLUSION...THAT HE CAN DO ANYTHING HE WANTS... AND IN FACT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACETS OF THE NIXON AFFAIR IS TO REITERATE ONCE MORE THE VIRTUE OF OPEN REGIMES," IPEKCI SAID.

7. IN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, DECLARED: "NOW THERE IS HAPPINESS IN AMERICA...THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE PRESS, ARE CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN OUSTING A PRESIDENT WHOSE NAME WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ABUSES." HURRIYET NOTES THAT MR. FORD CAN BE EXPECTED TO BRING A DIFFERENT STYLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES: "THERE WAS A DIFFERENT AMERICA WITH KENNEDY, IT BECAME DIFFERENT WITH NIXON, AND NOW THERE WILL BE A DIFFERENT AMERICA WITH ORD. THIS MAY WELL NOT BE THE AMERICA WE AND THE WORLD KNOW, BUT DEMOCRACY WILL PREVAIL IN AMERICA."

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8. IN OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, CUMHURİYET DECLARED THAT MAJOR CHANGES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ARE NOT EXPECTED: "TURKEY HAS CLOSELY KNIT INTERESTS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THERE ARE MANY THINGS ON THE AGENDA, HEADED BY THE OPIUM ISSUE, THE CYPRUS CASE. WASHINGTON IS MOST ACTIVE IN THE GENEVA TALKS. IT WOULD NOT BE CORRECT TO PREDICT THAT DURING THE TENURE OF THE NEW PRESIDENT A CHANGE WILL

TAKE PLACE WHICH WILL GO BEYOND THE BASIC LINES AND LOGIC OF THE KISSINGER FOREIGN POLICY. BUT, OF COURSE, TIME WILL GIVE THE MOST CORRECT ANSWER IN THIS RESPECT."

9. IN BACKGROUNDERS AND PROFILES OF MR. FORD CARRIED IN SEVERAL PAPERS, HE WAS DEPICTED AS A MAN OF MIDDLE-AMERICA, EMBODYING THE MIDWEST AMERICAN TRAITS OF HONESTY, SIMPLICITY AND CONSERVATISM. MOST PAPERS APPARENTLY DEPENDED ON WIRE SERVICE AND USIS BIOGRAPHIES FOR THEIR PROFILES. BUT HURRIYET,WHOSE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE READ "FORD'S STEPSON AMERICA'S NEW PRESIDENT", MENTIONED NO SOURCE IN REPORTING THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS THE STEPSON OF A NEPHEW OF HENRY FORD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA06411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740219-1118
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740858/aaaabxml.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: FORD BECOMES PRESIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, US, TU, (FORD, GERALD R), (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005